

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEHBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8204

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 14817

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, CB, UK

SUBJECT: UK DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN PHNOM PENH

REF: LONDON 14262

1. HMG'S APPARENT DECISION (REFTEL) TO DOWNGRADE ITS DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN PHNOM PENH THROUGH NOT REPLACING RESIDENT AMBASSADOR SEEMS TO US INCONSISTENT WITH HMG'S ACTION OF CO-SPONSORING FREINDLY UNGA RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO KHMER SIDES. IF THAT RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED NEXT MONTH, THE WAY WILL BE OPEN FOR AN INTENSIFICATION OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO END THE CONFLICT HERE BY GETTING IT MOVED TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THIS SHOULD BE A PROJECT THAT WOULD NOT ONLY MERIT APPROVAL OF HMG BUT ONE IN WHICH HMG WOULD WISH TO PLAY A ROLE AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT. DOWNGRADING OF BRITISH REPRESENTATION IN PHNOM PENH WOULD REDUCE HMG'S EFFECTIVENESS IN THAT SCORE, BOTH IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH GKR AND IN STANDING WITH THE OTHER MAJOR PLAYERS.

2. FROM PERSPECTIVE OF OUR OWN SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ENCOURAGE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF MAXIMUM LEVEL AS WELL AS NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ON GKR SIDE IN ORDER TO ENHANCE POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. THE NUMBER OF MISSION HEADED BY AMBASSADORS IS ALREADY REDUCED, AND OF THESE AIRAELI IS ABSENT OWING TO ILLNESS AND NEW THAI AMBASSADOR IS

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TAKING HIS TIME ARRIVING HERE. UK ASIDE, THAT LEAVES JAPAN, PNILI-

PPINES, WOUTH KOREA, SOUTH VIET-NAM, INDONESIA AND TAIWAN AS ONLY COUNTRIES BESIDES US REPRESENTED BY CHIEFS OF MISSION. THAT IS CLEARLY NOT A WEIGHTY ENOUGH COLLECTION TO PROJECT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GKR COUNTS IN THE WORLD AS A GOVERNMENT ENJOYING WIDE ACCEPTANCE.

3. IT WOULD DEFINITELY BE IN OUR INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE BY AT LEAST ONE OTHER MAJOR WESTERN POWER, AND THE UK IS THE OBVIOUS COUNTRY TO FILL THIS BILL, SINCE IT ALREADY HAS THAT PRESENCE.
DEAN

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